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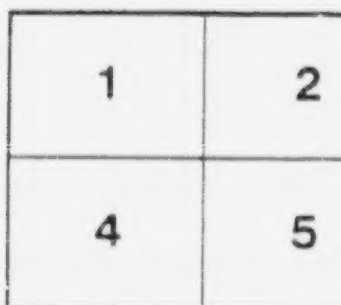
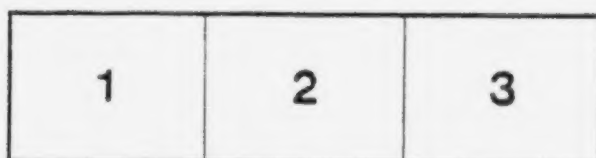
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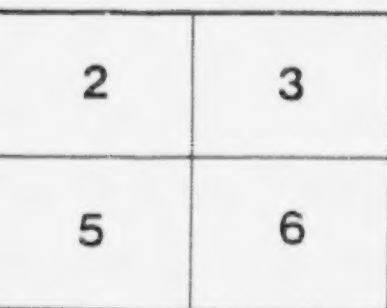
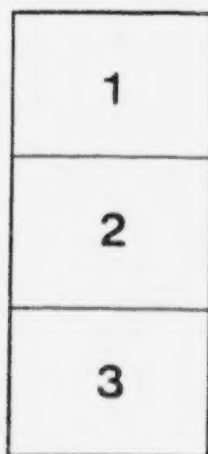
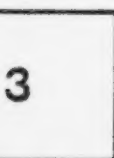
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The World-Gird

AND ITS

State-Owned Atlantic

CIRCULAR LETTER
FROM

The Board of
of the City of
Canada.

OTTAWA,

The general question of cables, and the freest intercourse throughout the world, recently attracted much attention in England.

The subject is of wide interest and concerns Canada equally with England. Every British citizen in both hemispheres.

Canada occupies a striking geographical position between the two great oceans, the Atlantic and the Pacific. A stretch of 120 degrees of latitude, embracing North and South America, there is no possibility of connecting the two oceans by telegraph under the British Dominion of Canada.

It seems that this geographical position has placed on Canada certain duties and obligations which have not yet been realized. According to the Hon. Joseph Howe, who in 1850 was Premier of Nova Scotia, the first Atlantic Cable was proposed by late Mr. F. N. Gisborne of that province.

Girdling Cable

AND ITS

Atlantic Section

PAR LETTER

FROM

Board of Trade

City of Ottawa,

Canada.

OTTAWA, JANUARY 30TH, 1909.

cables, telegraphs, cheaper rates throughout the Empire has quite a position in England.

interest and much importance. It with England. It concerns every sphere.

ing geographical position between Atlantic and the Pacific. For aitude, embracing the whole of North no possibility of connecting the two the British flag, except through the

raphical peculiarity has attached to obligations which Canada appears to g to the written testimony of the 1850 was Colonial Secretary for Nova ble was projected in Canada by the at province, and that gentleman was

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always regarded by Mr. Howe as "the originator and practical prime mover of the great undertaking." (Transactions C. Soc. Civil Engineers Vol. II, Part I, page 298.)

Again in 1879 we find Mr. Gisborne's name associated with the Pacific Cable. He was at that time in charge of the telegraph and signal service of the Dominion, and was appealed to by Sir Sandford Fleming, the Engineer-in-Chief of the Canadian Pacific Railway, for information and assistance. This matter is referred to at some length in the report on the Canadian Pacific Railway laid before parliament in 1880, (pages 30 and 357).

The whole story of the Pacific Cable is set forth by Mr. George Johnson, formerly Dominion Statistician, in the volume entitled "The All Red Line." The annals and aims of the undertaking are there told in complete detail. The concluding chapters of that work point conclusively to the ultimate design of the great Cable project in which Canada occupies a commanding position.

On October 31st, 1902, the Pacific Cable was completed. New Zealand and Australia were on that day telegraphically united directly with Canada. Before then, however, that is to say in June, 1901, the Board of Trade of Ottawa, in anticipation of the completion of the joint State undertaking, actively commenced a movement for the purpose of circulating information and ascertaining accurately the views of their fellow British citizens in the several over-sea possessions. They circulated many pamphlets on the subject, year by year, and opened correspondence with commercial associations and individuals in all parts of the Empire. During the past eight years information has thus been received and disseminated, and the Board has become satisfied that in order to secure the cheapest, the speediest, the freest and the most effective means of intercourse between all the self-governing parts of the Empire, there should be established a globe girdling chain of state-owned cables, touching British territory only; a system which by constituting a defi-

nite electric telegraph circle around the globe would admit of messages being transmitted in either direction between Canada, New Zealand, Australia, India, South Africa, the West Indies and the Mother Country.

The Board of Trade of Ottawa has adopted means to circulate in England as well as in the self-governing Colonies, a very large number of instructive publications of the Canadian Parliament, such as Sessional papers No. 67 and 67a, 1906. The Board has likewise sent to India, England, Australasia and elsewhere a large edition of their last important publications containing their address to His Excellency Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, with His Excellency's reply.

The foregoing references to the efforts made from time to time to promote the great Imperial Cable movement, actually commenced more than half a century ago; they furnish evidence that Canada, from the earliest days, has taken an active part in the developement of the cable system. Canadians now gladly welcome the recent discussions in England on cheaper cable rates and the appeal to the public on the whole subject. They hail with satisfaction the advocacy of Mr. Henniker Heaton, the apostle of Postal Reform, who having accomplished the task of advancing the establishment of Imperial Penny Postage, has turned his attention to the cables of the world and predicts sweeping reductions in the charges for transmission of all telegraphic correspondence.

The Ottawa Board of Trade especially rejoices in the attitude taken by our own Postmaster General, the Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux, who took a leading part in the several discussions in London a few weeks back. The last of the series of meetings was held in the Mansion House, London. It was presided over by the Lord Mayor, and many noblemen and other representative men were present. Mr. Lemieux's address on that occasion appeared in the Times next morning and will be read in Canada with much interest.

CANADA AND CABLE COMMUNICATIONS.

Speech of the Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux, Postmaster General of Canada, delivered at the Mansion House, London, Dec. 11th, 1908 :

My Lord Mayor,

My Lord Duke, My lords, Gentlemen :

I came here to listen and to learn. I have listened and I have already learned enough to say that this is an epoch-making gathering.

The cause for cheaper communications between the Mother Country and the Colonies, never received such influential support as now.

Need I say that public opinion in Canada is overwhelmingly in favour of any movement which will bring a reduction in the present almost prohibitive cable rates? Canada has always been impressed with the supreme importance of establishing fast and cheap communications with the Mother Country.

She took the lead amongst nations in extending to Marconi a helping hand to establish his trans-oceanic wireless system.

Canada first proposed and finally arranged Imperial Penny Postage.

Her parliament is pledged to carry out a scheme for a fast steamship service on both the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.

She has already obtained from the British Post Office a substantial postal reduction on magazines, newspapers and periodicals.

She was the first to advocate and finally secured the Pacific Cable, state-owned and controlled.

Sir Sandford Fleming—a great and good Canadian—has devoted his life to that cause. Like many other reformers, he was called a dreamer of dreams while fighting his lonely battle. He, however, succeeded in reaching a much coveted goal—the Cable on the Pacific side between Canada and Australia.

But why should we lay our armour aside? Why should we not complete a globe encircling cable, so as to bring into closer touch the various scattered states of the Empire?

Cheap postage, cheap telegraph rates forge intellectual bonds. They should be equally within the means of all classes in an Empire of stupendous magnitude and boundless resources.

It is utterly vain to boast of the unity of the Empire until its component parts become more fully acquainted.

Mutual knowledge leads to closer friendship, and closer friendship brings unity of sentiment.

Judging from what I have read in the daily press of the United Kingdom—with rare exceptions—very little information is given concerning the Dominions beyond the seas.

Indeed, it looks as if we were in no wise connected. A continuous chain of cheap telegraph would be, in my estimation, a potent factor, politically, commercially, intellectually.

The life, opinion and aspirations of our fellow subjects in both Hemispheres would cease to be—what it practically is today—a closed book.

Such a system would be of inestimable value in connection with the extension of commerce between the countries thus related.

Speaking for myself, I am of course more particularly concerned with a state-owned cable service across the Atlantic. It is the logical sequence of the establishment of the Pacific Cable.

This one step would be of incalculable importance. It is, in my opinion, a feasible scheme and one that can be worked on a paying basis.

I will not weary this meeting with figures regarding cost of cable laying, terminals, repairs, etc. This is a proper subject for a conference.

I am reminded, however, that sentiment is a sorry substitute for sound finance, and that as a matter of fact, the Pacific Cable is worked at an annual loss. Let us not be deceived.

Each year ^{Here} ~~their~~ has been an excess of earnings over expenditure; this excess having ranged from \$125,000 to \$278,000 a year. This surplus is regularly employed to reduce and pay off the original capital expenditure connected with the estab-

lishment of the joint state undertaking. Our own Auditor General confirms the fact that this highly important imperial work is financially in a prosperous condition ; that the revenue from traffic not only meets all current expenses, but yields a surplus which already discharges half the annuity, designed to pay off in a fixed term of years the whole borrowed capital and at the same time provide a reserve fund to renew the cable.

As regards the establishment of a state-owned Atlantic Cable between Canada and Great Britain, the consequences are far reaching.

First, you must bear in mind that this century is ours.

Canada's population in 1763 was 70,000.

At Confederation in 1867 it was $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions.

In 1935 it was estimated at 6 millions.

At the next census, in 1911 it will be over 7 millions.

Emigrants are pouring into our Country at the rate of 2 to 300,000 a year, and

Remember that 95 per cent. of our population is British born.

Lord Stratheona predicts that at the end of the 20th century, Canada will have a population twice as large as that of the British Isles. If this comes true, it will make Canada the dominating state in the Empire.

Under those circumstances is it not a wise policy to give cheap telegraphic communications to both countries?

This agitation is not confined to Canada. Public opinion in the United States is also in favour of cheaper cable transmission between America and Great Britain. The *New York Times* has recently made a general canvass of commercial circles which clearly indicates that unabated interest is taken in the reform movement by cable users.

I, for one, welcome the help which is given us by the United States, but as this great reform is to be achieved—and that at no distant future—I claim that Great Britain and her premier colony, Canada, *should lead in this matter and not follow.*

A state-owned cable across the Atlantic would at once lower cable charges between England and Canada fifty per cent.

It would eventually lead to an enormous reduction in those charges. While the present rate is 25 cents a word, it is believed there would eventually be a uniform charge not exceeding 5 cents a word between any telegraph station in the United Kingdom and any telegraph station within the limits of the Dominion.

It would at once bring down charges on messages between England, New Zealand and Australia, to half or less than half the present exorbitant rates.

It would be the harbinger of a Pan-Britannic cable and telegraph system encircling the globe.

Can that be accomplished ?

I think it can, I believe it will.

I have searched in vain for the word *impossible* in the latest edition of the English dictionary.

At the Mansion House meeting when the foregoing address was delivered, there were present among others, the Duke of Argyle, Lord Milner, Lord Jersey, Lord Strathcona, Lord Blyth, Lord Weardale, Hon. Mr. Fielding (Minister of Finance for Canada), Sir F. Borden (Minister of Militia), Hon. Mr. Fisher (Canadian Minister of Agriculture), Sir Edward Sassoon, M.P., Sir H. Seymour King, M.P., Sir F. Young, Sir William Holland, M.P., Admiral the Hon Sir E. Freemantle, Sir Benjamin Stone, Sir Alfred Jones, Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., Mr. Owen Philipps (chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company), Sir Albert Spicer (President of the London Chambers of Commerce), Captain Muirhead Collins (representative of the Australian Commonwealth), Sir Somerset French (Agent General for the Cape), Sir Richard Solomon (Agent General for the Transvaal), and many others. Among the speakers on the occasion were Sir Edward Sassoon, Captain Muirhead Collins, on behalf of

Australia, the Duke of Argyle, Lord
Mr. J. R. Neilson. Mr. Lorne Co

Mr. Lemieux's forcible address
at the meeting and throughout
was made known through the p
Ottawa Board of Trade we regard
means of again bringing the whole
communications to the attention of
and in the strongest terms comm
the Postmaster General. In add
the early development of cables
Lemieux we have the satisfaction
elucidating the subject.

The Board of Trade of Ottawa
Atlantic cable is a wise proposal
Lemieux it is the logical sequence
as a business proposition it would
is the next step to take in the m
advocated, to establish a system of
constitute a complete electric wor

We are satisfied that you will
as it is patriotic, that it is designe
and that when completed it will
intelligent public opinion by rend
people in all latitudes and longi
thoughts and common sentiments,
imperial relations.

On behalf of the Board of Trade

P

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Argyle, Lord Milner, Sir Albert Spicer, Lorne Collings and the Hon. Mr. Fielding.

able address awakened much sympathy throughout the United Kingdom when it was read in the public press. On behalf of the Board we regard it a public duty to take this opportunity of bringing the whole question of the imperial cable to the attention of the thoughtful men of Canada, and to commend the views expressed by Mr. Fielding. In addition to the foregoing outline of the proposed system of cables and the recent address of Mr. Fielding, it is a satisfaction to submit other publications

of Ottawa submits that a state-owned cable is a feasible proposal, that as pointed out by Mr. Fielding, the sequence of the Pacific cable, and that the cost of it would be amply remunerative. It is in the movement which we have long advocated a system of Empire cables which would form an electric world-girdle.

that you will find the project as practicable as it is designed to foster trade and commerce, and that it will be the means of developing the Empire by rendering it possible for all British subjects and longitudes to participate in common interests and sentiments, thus promoting the best inter-

Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa.

PETER WHELEN,

President.

CECIL BETHUNE,

Secretary.



